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# Pottstown Mercury

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Pottstown, Pa., (19464) Monday Morning, December 29, 1969

36 Pages

10c A COPY 60c A WEEK



**THREE-DEATH HANGOVER**—James Knox, 22, Long Beach, Calif., weeps after headon holiday collision which killed three members of another Long Beach family riding in a car struck by the Knox vehicle. Dead are Scott Sanders, 24, his wife

Mary Jane, 20, and the couple's 13-month son, Scott Jr. Knox was booked for felony drunk driving and manslaughter. (AP Wirephoto)

## Borough Declares Streets 'Passable' In Wake of Winter's Heaviest Storm

By **THOMAS GEYER**  
Mercury Staff Writer

Pottstown motorists continued to struggle through snowclogged streets over the weekend. Despite the efforts of borough snow crews to clear the streets after the Christmas storm that

dropped 12 inches of snow on Pottstown, driving remained difficult on many streets.

Public Works Director Earl J. Case said Sunday all borough streets were passable.

This view, however, was disputed by a number of local

residents who lodged complaints with The Mercury on the condition of the streets in the borough.

Related story on page 11.

"I had crews start hauling snow from High street 5:30 p.m. Saturday and tonight we will begin clearing Hanover and

King streets." Case said. The crews have been working during the night to avoid traffic problems.

### HIGH STREET CLEARED

Seven men operating two loaders and five trucks hauled snow from High Street to Memorial Park and all parking places were reported clear on

(Continued on Page Thirty-three)

## An Editorial

### Snow Removal???

Pottstown officials may think they did a great job during the recent snowstorm but the average man on the street won't agree.

Pottstown's streets were in terrible shape for days after the storm. Some roads, like York Street, were intolerable.

What possible excuse can Pottstown offer for such a poor job?

- Was it lack of planning?
- Was it lack of procedure?
- Was it lack of equipment?
- Was it lack of manpower?

Whatever the reason, it shouldn't have happened. Pottstown has had trouble in past years with storms. Then, plans were made and vows given that it would never happen again. But it did.

Pottstown likes to pretend it's a great big, modern community.

But when it snows it's more like an Eskimo village.

The Mercury hopes the new mayor and his council will insist on proper snow removal.

(Related photos on pages 7, 11 and 14.)

## Agnew Hails Thieu During Asian Trip

AGANA, Guam (AP) — Vice President Spiro T. Agnew said Sunday South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu has made progress in broadening the base of his government and will not be pressured by the Nixon administration into speeding the process.

"We have always encouraged President Thieu to have the broadest based government that he can have, compatible with his own national security," Agnew told reporters aboard his plane as it crossed the Pacific en route to Asia.

"We think that he has made amazing progress under a very difficult set of circumstances and that he continues to progress and to exhibit a desire to expand the base of his government," Agnew said.

He said the idea of U.S. pressure to expand Thieu's government is directly against the President's policy. Many critics of the Nixon administration's Vietnam policy, especially in the Senate, have called for U.S. efforts to force Thieu to broaden his administration as a necessary prelude to political unity and all-South Vietnam elections.

### NO 'DARK SPOTS'

The vice president said "there weren't really any dark spots" on Vietnam in the briefing he received Saturday in Hawaii from Adm. John S. McCain Jr., U.S. commander-in-chief in the Pacific. Agnew flew from Hawaii to this mid-Pacific U.S. air base for an overnight stop before going to the Philippines Monday.

## Evangelist Billy Graham Gives Sermon During Florida Rock Music Festival

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP) — Evangelist Billy Graham, drawing a reception ranging from applause to a few shouted obscenities, told young people attending a rock music festival Sunday to "drop out of your

present lives and turn to the power of God."

Graham addressed some 2,500 youths scattered about a straw-filled field.

The youths—about equally divided between boys and girls—sat and reclined on blankets as Graham spoke. Some listened intently, some talked among themselves, a few shouted jeers and obscenities, and some slept.

Graham got a scattered round of applause as he went on the stage at 11 a.m. He appeared during a lull in the music at the 72-hour festival at an auto speedway ground at the edge of the Everglades.

### REPRESENTATIVE CHALLENGE

Graham told his audience that they represented "a wonderfully challenging generation." He said he had listened to the music being played at the festival and found it mirrored the attitudes of these in attendance.

"It reflects your rejection of the establishment and things that are material," he said. "It's an indication of your protest."

Graham spoke for about 20 minutes. When he finished he asked those interested in getting more information about Christ to congregate in front of a striped tent where several aides gave out literature. About 25 youths wandered over. The tent was to be open all day.

Graham, invited to the festival by the promoters, said in a news conference after his appearance he was pleased by the reception.

"I came prepared to be shouted down," he said, "but I was amazed at the polite way I was treated."

"I'll be happy to come to any rock festival where I'm asked," he said. "This is the way Jesus did it."

## Damage In Thousands

# Fire Wrecks Barn Killing 13 Cattle

By **CHARLES H. PITCHFORD**  
Mercury Staff Writer

An early morning fire swept through a barn at Clover Leaf Farms in Douglass (Berks) Township Sunday destroying the frame structure and claiming the lives of 13 cows.

More than 100 volunteers from area fire companies arrived at the scene on Route 422 just west of West Pottsgrove Township line, to find the barn a mass of flames, leaping more than 150 feet skyward.

The blaze, which broke out

shortly before 7 a.m., continued for 7½ hours and raged out of control for more than three hours as firemen battled the flames during the bone-chilling and windy weather.

### SPREADS QUICKLY

The fire spread quickly through the two-story structure feeding on several tons of dry hay.

Firemen from West End Fire Co., Stowe, first on the scene, said the barn was engulfed in flames when they arrived.

Firemen from Philadelphia

Steam Fire Engine, Norco and Upper Pottsgrove Fire Companies also were on the scene.

Walter Grow, president of Clover Leaf Dairy said there were 35 cows in the barn when the fire began. Twenty-two were led to safety, but the remaining 13 perished as the efforts of rescue workers were thwarted by the increasing smoke and heat.

He said the cattle that were saved from the burning building will be sold Monday in Perkiomenville.

### CLEANING EQUIPMENT

According to Grow, there were workers in the barn prior to the fire who had finished milking and went to clean the equipment. When they returned to turn off the lights, they were met by smoke and flames.

Grow said he fire quickly spread through the dry hay but was unable to trace its origin. He made no estimate of the monetary loss but said it will run into several thousands of dollars.

Delmar Egolf, West End fire chief in charge of firefighting operations, also estimated damage at several thousand dollars.

According to Egolf, the barn is located in Berks County and

(Continued on Page Thirty-three)

## Pilots Accused Of War 'Crimes'

TOKYO (AP) — Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh of North Vietnam says American pilots are being held prisoner because "they bombed the Democratic Republic of Vietnam on orders of the U.S. government" and were "caught red-handed while perpetrating their crimes."

Trinh was interviewed last

Wednesday in Hanoi by Tatsuo

Tsuda, correspondent of Japan's

Kyodo news service. The interview

was broadcast Sunday by Hanoi Radio.

Trinh, said: "When adhering to the 1949 Geneva convention on the treatment of prisoners-of-war, the DRVN made this explicit reserve on article 85; 'The Democratic Republic of Vietnam declared that war prisoners prosecuted and tried for their war crimes or grave crimes against humanity, in accordance with the principles

laid down by the Nuernberg tribunal, are not entitled to benefit from the provisions of this convention as stipulated by article 85."

"In spite of their crimes against the Vietnamese people, they (U.S. POWs) have so far always enjoyed humanitarian treatment from the DRVN government."

## Terrorists Set Bomb in Dublin

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — A bomb exploded Sunday outside Dublin's central detective bureau and massive security measures were ordered for all Ireland to guard against terrorist attacks blamed on Protestant extremists.

Police expressed belief the blast was meant to blow up the nearby telephone exchange headquarters and linked it to the bombing that damaged the O'Connell monument Friday. There have been three other bombings in Ireland since the Protestant-Roman Catholic rioting in Northern Ireland in August.

Forces from the Irish Army were called out to help police guard public buildings, installations and monuments.

Aer Lingus, the Irish national airline, ordered security guards at Dublin, Cork and Shannon airports placed on a 24-hour alert.

### PATROLS MOUNTED

Army patrols were mounted along the border with Northern Ireland and at the Drogheda viaduct, a link on the Dublin-Belfast railroad.

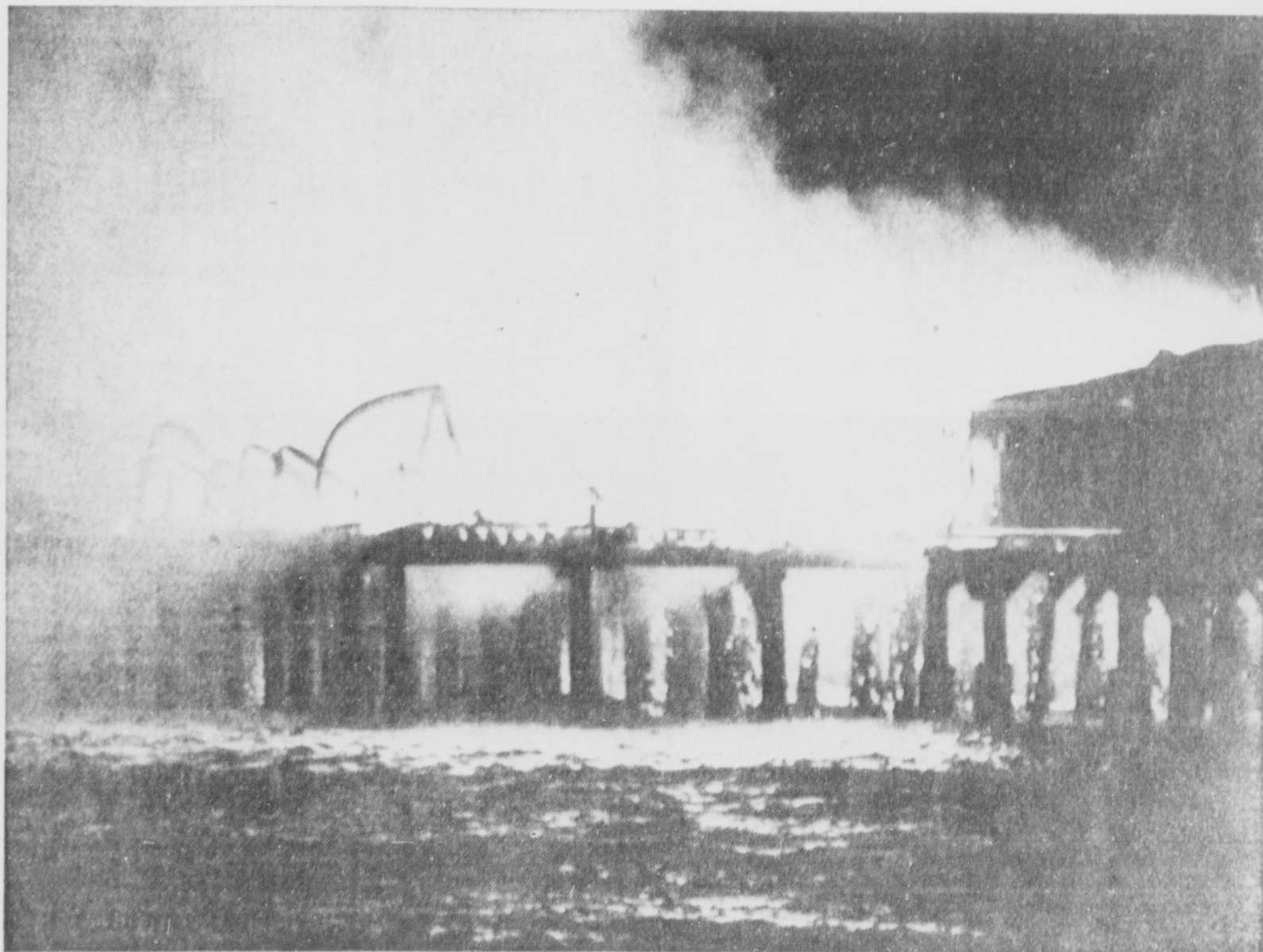
Police said they believed the last two bombs were the work of the Ulster Volunteer Force, an underground group of Protestants, which claimed it was responsible for three of the earlier bomb blasts.

The explosion outside detective headquarters was caused by a time bomb planted in a stolen car about 30 yards from the entrance. The building was rocked but no one was hurt.

Special security precautions have been in force in the republic since Friday when the attempt was made to destroy the monument to Daniel O'Connell in the heart of Dublin. O'Connell is known to Irish Catholics as "the Liberator" for leading the successful campaign for Catholic emancipation in the early 19th century. That blast shattered an angel at the foot of the monument but the 40-foot high statue of O'Connell was undamaged.

The Ulster Volunteer Force is a Protestant counterpart to the outlawed Irish Republican Army. The UVF had claimed it bombed a monument to Irish patriot Wolfe Tone in County Kildare, a power plant at Ballyshannon, and Radiotelevis Eirann, the Irish Radio and television station at Donnybrook, Dublin.

Since the bombing at the station Aug. 5, all its buildings have been ringed by floodlights and security forces have been greatly increased. No one was injured in that bombing.



**MILLION DOLLAR FIRE**—The main ballroom of the famed Steel Pier, Atlantic City tourist attraction for 85 years,

collapses into the ocean during Saturday night fire which caused an estimated \$1 million in damage. (AP Wirephoto)

## The Weather

Sunny this morning with increasing cloudiness this afternoon. Rain likely late tonight and Tuesday. High will be in low 40s, low in the 30s. Winds moderate today and Tuesday.

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### Deaths

William Moore, Sanatoga; Ella Hilbert, Gilbertsville; Mary Stropka, Upper Pottsgrove; Mariannina Altomari, 547 King St.; Edith Yeager, Linfield; Lucretia Garner, Telford; John Gauger, 318 Rosedale Drive; Wallace Neil, Spring City; Harry Miller, Pottstown RD 1; Edna Reichenbach, North Coventry. Obituaries Pages 2 and 33.



## + Obituaries +

# Former Garage Operator, John Gauger, Succumbs

John D. "Jack" Gauger, 67, former service station owner for 41 years, died suddenly Saturday morning at his home, 318 Rosedale Drive.

Mr. Gauger owned and operated a Texaco service station at West High Street until February, 1968. That same year he began working in the parts department for Tyson-Pontiac-Cadillac Inc., East High Street, a job he held at the time of his death.

Born in Linfield, he was a son of the late Horace and Elizabeth (Willauer) Gauger and husband of Margaret H. (Spatz) Gauger.

He was a member of Zion's United Church of Christ, Stichter Lodge 254, F & AM; Rajah Temple and Reading Consistory.

Surviving with his widow are two sons, John D. Jr., Westport, Conn.; Gary L., Oxon Hill, Md.; a daughter, Fay H. Gauger, Bethayers; three sisters, Mrs. Caroline Strohm, Douglassville;

Helen, wife of Alfred Shantz and Theresa Gauger, both of Parker Ford.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday from Skean Funeral Home, 404 High St. Officiating will be the Rev. Stanley J. Wagner, pastor of Zion's Church.

Interment will be in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

A viewing will be 12:30 to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

## Lucretia Garner, Ex-Spring City Resident, Dies

Funeral services for Lucretia (Boorse) Garner, 68, widow of George L. Garner, Telford, a former Spring City resident, will be 11 a.m. Wednesday from White Memorial Home, Parker Ford.

The Rev. Richard Stough, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, will officiate.

Interment will be in Oak Grove Cemetery, Parker Ford.

A viewing will be 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Garner died Friday in Grand View Hospital, Sellersville, where she was a patient three weeks.

Born in Lansdale, she was a daughter of the late Charles H. and Katie (Williams) Boorse.

She lived with a daughter, Blanche, wife of Charles Andrichyn, for five years after moving from Spring City.

Surviving with her daughter are two other daughters, Mrs. Virginia Wisler, Allentown; Betty, wife of James Reynolds, Lansdale; three sons, Harry R., Indian Creek Road, Harleysville; Allen L. and George F., both of Kulpville.

Also, three sisters, Katie, widow of Arthur Johnson, 168 Main St., Royersford; Rachel, widow of George Filman, South Hanover Street, and Edith, wife of Roy Mosteller, Vaughn Royersford.

And, three brothers, Robert J., Allentown; Archie, Wernersville; Charles, Spring City; 16 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

### Cards of Thanks 2

**LEWIS**  
The family of the late Blanche Lewis desires to thank the kind neighbors and friends for the assistance and sympathy, the floral tributes, sympathy cards and use of cars offered during their recent bereavement.

**MERKY**  
We wish to thank our relatives, neighbors and friends for the many acts of kindness shown, for sympathy extended and for the beautiful floral tributes at the funeral of Agnes T. (Delwiler) Merky.

The FAMILY.

**SEASHOLTZ**  
The family of Florence Seasholtz desires to thank the kind neighbors and friends for the assistance and sympathy, the floral tributes, sympathy cards and use of cars offered during their recent bereavement.

**URIAN**  
The family of the late Bertha Urian desires to thank the kind neighbors and friends for the assistance and sympathy, the floral tributes, sympathy cards and use of cars offered during their recent bereavement.

**Monuments—Cemetery Lots 6**  
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Raymond S. Elliott

When asked what his New Year's resolution would be, a sage was quoted as saying, "Since life has taught me that almost invariably we get back in kind what we give out, I am resolving to improve on my giving out of the best of everything. I want a happy new year 365 days a year . . . that's the best resolution anyone can ever make." Well, we cannot improve on his words, but we can follow good advice. We resolve to improve wherever possible for you. Happy New Year!

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## Mariannina Altomari Succumbs at Center

Mariannina (Altomari) Altomari, 70, widow of Luigi L. Altomari, 5467 King St., died early Sunday morning in Medical Center North where she was a patient for several hours.

She suffered a heart attack at home early and was taken in a Good Will Ambulance to the center.

Born in Rogliano, Italy, she was a daughter of the late Guy and Rachel (Zompano) Altomari.

Mrs. Altomari came to the United States in 1927, settling

## Ella G. Hilbert, Upper Hanover Native, Dies

Ella G. (Seasholtz) Hilbert, 73, wife of John S. Hilbert, 1324 E. Philadelphia Ave., Gilbertsville, was dead on arrival Saturday night at Medical Center North.

She became ill at home suddenly and when the family was unable to reach a physician, she was taken to the center in Boyertown Lions Community ambulance.

Mrs. Hilbert suffered from a heart ailment for the past six months, a member of the family said.

A native of Upper Hanover Township, she was a daughter of the late Frank and Catherine (Gerhart) Seasholtz.

She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sassafrasville, its Adult Bible Class and Willing Workers Society and the Ladies Auxiliaries of Gilbertsville and Sassafrasville Fire Companies.

Surviving with her widower are a son, John W., 55 Jackson Road, Gilbertsville; a daughter, Erma, wife of Lawrence Mathias, Gilbertsville; a foster son, Elwood Seasholtz, Adams Street, Red Hill; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday from J. Robert Stone Funeral Home, 567 Church St., Royersford.

The Rev. Michael R. Schmidt, pastor of St. Vincent UCC, will officiate.

Interment will be in St. Vincent Cemetery.

A viewing will be 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

## Borough Native Dies at Age 73 In Center East

Edna (Bickhart) Reichenbach, 73, widow of Albert B. Reichenbach, 440 S. Hanover St., North Coventry, died Sunday morning in Medical Center East where she was a patient three weeks.

Born in Pottstown, she was a daughter of the late Lewis and Minerva Bickhart.

Mrs. Reichenbach was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, treasurer of the Trinity Bible Class and a former Sunday School teacher.

She is survived by a son, Earl L. Clay, Norristown; and a grandson.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday from Trinity United Church of Christ.

The Rev. John B. Frantz, pastor, will officiate.

Interment will be in Mt. Zion Cemetery.

A viewing will be at the church 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday.

Arrangements are in charge of Houck Funeral Home, North Charlotte and Grace streets.

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## William Moore, Ex-draftsman, Dies in Hospital

William B. Moore, 81, 162 Princeton Ave., Sanatoga, died Saturday morning in Lebanon Veterans Hospital, following a lengthy illness.

Born in Birdsboro, he was a son of the late William J. and E. Ida (Neatock) Moore.

Until his retirement in 1954, he was employed in the engineering department of Birdsboro Corp. as a draftsman. Prior to moving to Sanatoga, he resided at Hotel Washington, Birdsboro, for more than 20 years.

An Army veteran of World War I, he was a member of Friendship Fire Co. and American Legion Post 626, both of Birdsboro; Veterans of Foreign Wars and Reading Chapter of Rainbow Division of Veterans, both of Reading.

He also was a member of the Retired Army Officers and the National Geographic Society, both of Washington, D.C.

A retired lieutenant, he served in the Army from 1910 to 1918.

Surviving are three sisters, Irene, widow of Edward Clark, Terre Hill; Edna, wife of George Gentner, and Reba, wife of Walter Huyett, both of Reading.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday from Shalkop Funeral Home, 433 E. 1st St., Birdsboro. Officiating will be the Rev. Allen R. Bistline, pastor of Evangelical United Methodist Church, Birdsboro.

Interment will be in Carnarvon Cemetery, Morgantown.

A viewing will be 7 to 9 to night at the funeral home.

Funeral services for **H. W. Reifsnnyder, Largo, Fla.**, a Pottstown native, were Christmas Eve in St. Petersburg, Fla.

A retired YMCA secretary, he died Dec. 21.

Survivors include his widow, Madolin; two sons, a daughter, a sister and three grandchildren.

Graveside services for **Florence (Hemelright) Seasholtz**, 72, wife of Leonard M. Seasholtz, Hanover Court Apartments, were Saturday at West End Cemetery.

The Rev. Dr. John B. Frantz, pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ, officiated.

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## Mary Stropko Dies at Age 67

Mary (Bodulus) Stropko, 67, wife of John H. Stropko, 1698 Farmington Ave., Upper Pottsgrove Township, was found dead in bed early Saturday morning by her husband.

She was pronounced dead at home by Dr. Edwin Andersen.

who was treating her for a heart condition.

Born in Toronto, Ohio, she was a daughter of the late Theodore and Anna (Artrim) Bodulus. She was an area resident since 1915.

She was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Rosary Society and First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union.

Surviving with her widower are a son George, 1696 Farmington Ave., Upper Pottsgrove Township; three daughters, Mary, wife of John Hutman, Mont Clare; Anna, wife of Frank Pachik, 969 Farmington Ave., and Verna, wife of James Bartok, 461 Belmont Ave.

And, two brothers, Michael, 876 Queen St., and Joseph, Earlville; 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 9 a.m. Tuesday from Kopicki Funeral Home, 1104 High St.

A Solemn High Requiem Mass will be celebrated 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Catholic Church with the Rev. Andrew L. Slafkosky, rector, as celebrant.

Interment will be in St. John's Greek Catholic Cemetery.

A viewing will be 7 to 9 p.m. Monday in the funeral home.

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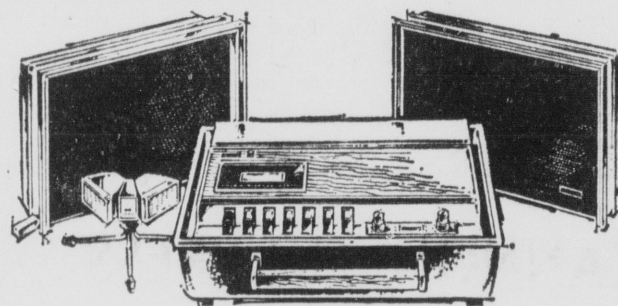
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### Local Notices

No Office Hours Until Jan. 5. Dr. Eugene Sloan.

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D. Hanth. N. Cov. Tax Coll.—Office Closed, Dec. 29-Jan. 4.